

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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Observed events are indexed from a recorded assessment by creating a database record with a series of index entries for events occurring during the assessment, based upon a pre-existing set of Pre-defined descriptor or measurement questions or items are presented to a user or operator using a computer with a storage and a display for use in systematic observation and assessment. Measurement items that are used in the course of observation and assessment are automatically correlated with address data that is associated with a track of simultaneous digital recording so as to automatically generate meaningful indexes for the recorded material. Based upon the contents of the measurement questions or items, including any qualitative or quantitative descriptions or numerical rating results from use of the descriptors or measurement items. The database entries allow annotation and event comparisons without affecting the raw recorded event data. The recording of the events is made by a conventional recording method that uses one track for the recording of the events (sights, sounds, behaviors, etc.) and another track for a running time scale of time data that synchronizes the recording and playback of the event data. The index marks used in the present invention use the time data from the time track and an identifier for the associated measurement item as entries into a database. These database records can be annotated and combined with other entries or data for forming a more rich and diverse assessment record. The indexes can readily be further processed, providing the capacity for improvements in efficiency, consistency, and accuracy in retrieving and utilizing the recorded material. The method is particularly useful for processes relating to systematic interview or assessment methods, including the training and monitoring of interviewers or assessors and the storage, retrieval, analysis, and other manipulation of recordings.